



Thurston County Fire Protection District 8

DISTRICT POLICY MANUAL

PROCEDURE TITLE:	District Emergency Medical Services
PROCEDURE NUMBER:	2-50-PO-00
REVISION:	0
DATE ISSUED/REVISED:	9 September 2025
BOARD APPROVAL SIGNATURE:	

1. Emergency Medical Services (“EMS”)

- a. The District will provide for appropriate levels of EMS commensurate with its goals, objectives and available resources. The Policy shall be to effectively provide first-response Basic Life Support (“BLS”) level care within 8 minutes of alarm notification and provide follow-up BLS transport of patients when and where indicated and available.
- b. The District recognizes and supports the *Thurston County EMS Comprehensive Plan* (“Plan”) as adopted by the Thurston County Board of Commissioners in 2025. The Plan defines and proposes:
 - i. Continuing to provide excellent, evidence based patient care;
 - ii. Providing efficient, cost-effective pre-hospital healthcare delivery;
 - iii. Supporting, maintaining and improving collaborative approaches to providing pre-hospital healthcare;
 - iv. Partnering in investigating and evaluating service delivery funding alternatives;
 - v. Preserving and improving community awareness, prevention and engagement initiatives;
 - vi. Partnering in evaluating a sustainable and systemwide organizational and operational structure;
 - vii. Partnering in preserving and augmenting local, regional and statewide healthcare community engagement;
 - viii. Understanding, evaluating and addressing EMS impacts related to population growth in the community;
 - ix. Continually seeking to improve EMS training in the EMS workforce; and
 - x. Continuing to support the recruitment and retention of high quality EMS providers.
- c. The District will strive to continue to be actively involved in the EMS programs of Thurston County and the Thurston County Medic One operational and administrative organizations.

2. Ground EMS Transportation

The District will provide ground EMS transport services for medical patients on an as needed basis, ensuring compliance with WAC 246-976-260 through 400, RCW 18.73, and Thurston County EMS protocols, while balancing District priorities.

- a. Destination of ground transport: The destination of ground transport by District ambulances will be, unless diverted, the nearest appropriate medical facility capable of providing definitive care for the patient depending on the patient’s condition and the facility’s capabilities. Protocol may dictate the specific destination for certain patients.
- b. Billing and Reimbursement: In the event of a ground transport, there will be no billing for service or reimbursement sought in any way from a customer or organization.
- c. Procedure: The District will establish sufficient procedure(s) to define ground EMS transportation services.